



**Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection and Preparedness:  
A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships On Disaster Response Training**

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## **MEETING NOTES FROM WELCOME, NIEHS UPDATE AND CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE**

### **Wednesday April 21**

#### **Welcome, NIEHS Update and Clearinghouse Update**

Chip Hughes and Bruce Lippy (NIEHS/WETP) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and making opening remarks.

Chip Hughes then described the progress of the joint project with OSHA, CPWR, HMTRI, L-AGC, IUOE and IAFF. It is based on lessons learned at the WTC disaster because there proved to be a clear need for more training of skilled support personnel at disaster sites. It was developed jointly with OSHA, NIEHS Grantees and OSHA Ed Centers. NIEHS and OSHA will sign MOU for ongoing work. Cards will be distributed by OSHA to certify training. The courses for certification include OSHA Construction Outreach (10 hrs), Disaster Site Worker (16 hrs), HAZWOPER (40 hrs), and a Train-the-Trainer Course.

Sharon Beard then updated the group about an RFA Update and Brownfields 2004. In regards to the RFA update, the RFA Release Date will be June/July 2004 (tentative) and the RFA briefing meeting will be July/August 2004 (tentative). The RFA Due Date will be October/November 2004 (tentative). There are some new NIH policies, 398 application procedures, DUNS requirement, etc. These can be viewed at the NIH Website — <http://www.nih.gov/>

The Brownfields 2004 Gateway to Revitalization will be in St. Louis, MO on September 20-22, 2004 at the America's Center. We will have/need sponsorship, booth and call for presentations. Finally, scholarship applications are due by June 1, 2004.

Patricia Thompson then updated the group on the progress report submission. Instructions will be provided in May. The progress report section will be opened for data entry on June 1 and Progress Reports are due on July 1. She also reviewed the new DMS changes. These changes are: Use only whole numbers when recording course hours; Course Hours 24 and higher will now be accepted in the DMS for the Basic Superfund Site Worker Course and; they are discouraging 1-3 hour courses and courses with few students. Finally, she noted that Fact Sheets for the HWWTP & MWTP and the WETP Annual Report are now available on the website. <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/home.htm>

Ted Outwater then informed the group about Upcoming Workshops/ Conferences. These include: Mold-Related Health Effects: Clinical, Remediation Worker Protection, and Biomedical Research Issues - Washington DC, June 28-29; NIEHS WETP Awardee Meeting & Workshop-Fall 2004 in RTP (tentative); Brownfields 2004 – St. Louis, MO, Sept 20-22, and; NIEHS WETP Spring Awardee Meeting & Workshop – Need topic and location recommendations.

Carolyn Mason then reviewed the Revised NIH Grants Policy Statement that was published December 1, 2003. New NIH Grants Policy Statement includes: Revisions to NIH policies since March 2001, Clarifications, Public Policy Changes and an index. She also explained revisions to the PHS 2590. She then reviewed new requirement for DUNS numbers on applications. Grantee organizations should verify that they have a DUNS number. Organizations can secure a DUNS number at no cost at tel. 1-866-705-5711 or URL <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>. This requirement applies to organizations. Non-affiliated individuals are exempt. Q&As may be found at [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/duns\\_qa.doc](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/duns_qa.doc)

All revisions and guidelines can be found at <http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/>

#### **Clearinghouse Update**

*Dr. Bruce Lippy*

Bruce Lippy gave a short review of the accomplishments of the National Clearinghouse since the December meeting in Research Triangle Park. MDB, Inc., the firm that operates the Clearinghouse under an NIEHS grant, has added several new staff members including Dr. Rachel Gross. Dr. Gross received her Ph. D. in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and is a Certified Health Education

Specialist. Prior to joining MDB, Dr. Gross worked at the U.S. Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Gross developed and disseminated a weekly newsletter and served as the Webmaster for the Army medical website, skills that are critical to the Clearinghouse function.

MDB has also hired Larry Reed who will be working out of the firm's Research Triangle Park office. A member of the Federal Senior Executive Service from 1991 until his retirement recently, Larry has served with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency in a variety of positions involved with developing methodologies for addressing hazardous waste sites, improving the science of risk assessment, and generally implementing national strategies for environmental programs. Most recently at the EPA, Larry served as a senior advisor for the Superfund Basic Research Program. From 2001-2002, he was the Acting Director for the EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, which had 170 employees and a budget of \$800 million annually. Larry was a pivotal figure in the EPA's monitoring of airborne contamination at the WTC disaster.

Dr. Lippy also pointed out that the Clearinghouse website had been greatly improved since December: All of the hundreds of documents that have been maintained on the site have been added to a database that allows much better searching. Navigation has been improved and the key documents generated by the NIEHS WETP have been grouped on the homepage for easier access. Additionally, MDB has reformatted the Minimum Criteria document.

The Clearinghouse has also been deeply involved in the issue of protecting workers from mold. The staff coordinated a National Technical Workshop on training workers to safely deal with mold in maintenance and remediation work, which was held in Manhattan on January 27-28, 2004 at Hunter College. Approximately sixty mold experts and practitioners, including many from WETP grantees, discussed and revised a "strawman" document created by John Moran. The workshop was co-sponsored by NIEHS, the Society for Occupational and Environmental Health (SOEH), the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC), the Urban Public Health Program of Hunter College of the City University of New York, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the School of Public Health of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The revised guidance document will be formally released at the next major mold workshop, scheduled for June 28-29, 2004 in Washington, D.C.

Finally, the Clearinghouse has been instrumental in coordinating and developing the joint NIEHS-OSHA course for Disaster Site Workers. There have been several pilots of the instructor and student courses, including one at the George Meany Center. OSHA and NIEHS intend to promote this 16-hour course nationally among skilled support personnel.